



# Forum Factorum



Volume XXXVIII, Issue 3 ~ The Official Publication of the Massachusetts Junior Classical League ~ December 2012



Photo top left: Marshmallow Catapult in action. Photo bottom left: Launching an arrow. Photo middle: May the Catapult Competition begin. Photo top right: Winning team at the Berkshire Bowl. Photo bottom right: Hula-Hoop Contest!

## ***Ecce - Catapultae Ballistaeque!***

*Shebati Sengupta*

*Advanced Math and Science Academy*

On Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, our 2012-2013 MassJCL year was introduced at its annual Kick-Off Catapult Day held at Mount Greylock Regional High School. The winding roads of the Berkshires led students straight to Mt. Greylock. In front of those peaceful fields were marshmallow catapults, and across the field were catapults and ballistae, ready to be assembled. The day, however, did not begin there, but in the auditorium, where the MassJCL officers spoke about the day's events and the school rules. An officer skit soon followed, featuring the professional officers in a parody of a Latin class which left the whole auditorium roaring with laughter. The first annual Berkshire Bowl Certamen Tournament – a tournament between Latin teachers and SCLers – proceeded after. After several creative questions and silly answers, including Dramatic Interpretation, "Hilarious History" questions, and an impromptu singing recital, team *Pueri Puellaeque* came out victorious.

The assembly was then over, crowds of students and sponsors alike poured out of the opened double doors, some heading for Workshop sign-ups, some for the cafeteria for lunch and hula hoops, some to Open Certamen, and some to shoot marshmallow catapults outside.

At one end of the cafeteria, there was a hula hoop contest going on. This later culminated in a hula hoop dance contest due to the sheer skill of the final two competitors. Workshops were also held at the event, focusing on Publicity, Community Service, and Publications. The MassJCL officers presented the rules of the competitions, and examples of what could be done, assisting each chapter with formulating a plan for the year.

At the end of the day, with new knowledge and new friendship kindled within the students, a majority went outside to see the catapultae and ballistae. Everybody stared up at the towering frames, and at the smaller constructions, as club Engineers made last minute tweaks to their machines. With MassJCL officers announcing loudly to clear away, crowds teemed towards the grassy sidelines, smiling, laughing, chatting and cheering as the constructions launched heavy balls and arrows across the air, landing on the field with sprays of dirt. At the final assembly the winners of the catapult and ballista competition were announced: Mount Greylock placed first for Catapult, Boston Latin Academy placed second, and Abby Kelley Foster placed third. Boston Latin Academy placed first for Ballista, Advanced Math and Science Academy placed second, and Lunenburg High School placed third.



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Winter 2012

### MassJCL 2012-2013

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## Welcome to Classics Day!



Hello MassJCL,

*Tempus Fugit!* Time has flown by since the State Convention. When past 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents stated that Classics Day planning begins on the bus ride home from Convention, they were not exaggerating. This Classics Day was inspired by the gorgeous artwork that I saw at State Convention. I realized how much MassJCLers care about the arts of Ancient Greece and Rome. My hope is that at some point today, you take a moment to realize what a huge impact the arts of Ancient Greece and Rome have had not just on the JCL, but on the world.

I am so excited about the great variety of workshops that are available to you this year. I feel confident that all of you have found workshop(s) that interest you. What I love about the Junior Classical League is that it gives a culture to the language you learn in class. The arts of these ancient civilizations made this culture rich; it is what makes learning the classics fascinating for so many of us. Today, take a chance and learn something new about Greece and Rome. Who knows? It might influence your classical education in some way. Whether it's your first year learning Latin, or it's one of your last, I hope you make the best of your day here.

Always,  
Maddie Kilgannon  
MassJCL 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President 2012-2013

## Letter from the Editor



Salvete MassJCL!

I cannot believe the year 2012 is coming to a close, and the MassJCL year is reaching its halfway point. Welcome to the 'Classics Day' Edition of the *Forum Factorum*. This issue, as promised, contains two new columns: 'Ask Pythia' and 'Did You Know That?' Ironically, a lot of the 'Ask Pythia' submissions were about Classics Day and Snowball. This issue's edition of the 'Did You Know That?' will focus on three main Roman Holidays: Saturnalia, Ludi Romani, and Consualia.

This issue will also highlight the main Certamen tournaments so far this year: The Northeastern Elite Certamen Tournament and The Yale Certamen Tournament. Also look out for a creative writing piece on the Olympics. Finally, you get a chance to meet the officers of the 2012-2013 MassJCL year. While you read through this issue, check out some photos from the Kickoff Catapult event at Mount Greylock.

On a final note, I would like to remind you that MassJCL is having its first ever 'Coin Wars.' Each officer has chosen a specific charity and we hope you participate by donating! For a full description, check out the MassJCL YouTube page. Have an amazing day learning all about the ancient arts of Greece and Rome!

*E Pectore,*  
Joana Jankulla  
MassJCL Publications Editor 2012-2013

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## Northeastern Elite Certamen Tournament

*Tommy Phan  
Boston Latin Academy*

The first annual Northeastern Elite Certamen Tournament was held this year on September 28<sup>th</sup> at Boston University. This tournament was unlike any other held in Massachusetts: it was strictly for SCLers and Latin teachers. Each team got to pick a creative team name. It was run by Francesca Fontin, Northeastern University student, and Magistra Luong, BLA teacher. Students from all over Massachusetts came and helped out. I volunteered to help out for the day. Early in the morning, I set up buzzers and organized rooms. Once the rounds started, I was scorekeeping. It was really awesome to see past Certamen superstars and current Certamen coaches in action. It just goes to show you how dedicated all of them are! The final round was probably one of the most intense rounds of Certamen I have ever watched. Going into tossup 20, the game was pretty close. In the end team 'Hold My Drink' won first, 'Simons & Fro' won second, and 'Hard in Da Paint' won third. A great ending to an even greater day!



*Photo: The three winning teams at Northeastern Elite Certamen Tournament. From Left to right: 'Hold My Drink'(first), 'Simons & Fro' (second), 'Hard In Da Paint' (third)*

## Yale Certamen Tournament

*Ava Violich  
Boston Latin School*

The alarm went off at 6:00 on a Saturday morning, November 10. Most other people would be sleeping until noon, but at 7:00 sharp our Certamen teams, ready to embark on a journey to Yale, were assembled in the cold in front of school. For many, it was the first time seeing the campus and participating in the interstate Certamen tournament, to which teams from as far as Florida traveled for high quality competition—but luckily, our commute wasn't nearly as long! After a relatively short car trip of about two and a half hours we arrived at Yale ready to go. The campus itself took everyone's breath away. Tall gothic spires were on every building; autumn trees, elaborate stained glass windows, and beautiful stone facades met our eyes at every turn, making the college look in some places like a modern-day Hogwarts. After having been to many a Certamen match inside of a drab classroom, we all agreed that it was an amazing and really unique place to host the tournament! We went inside to escape the chill and registered before settling down and waiting for the commencement speech with Latin students from all over the East Coast.

## Certamen Updates

Ben Van Gelder, a former Certamen player currently attending Yale, gave the commencement speech and introduced two speakers from the Yale Classics Department to speak to us about their experiences with Latin. Both professors were very witty, funny, and inspiring—they gave us short lectures on topics ranging from their love of Latin to an analysis of modern American rhetoric and its connections with Cicero and other traditional classical speaking styles. After they were done speaking, the Certamen rounds began! They were set out by level, with novice playing first, followed by intermediate and advanced. Since I played on advanced, I had hours before our first round began. With my teammates Henry, Francesca, and Eddie, I found an empty classroom and we studied until lunch.

We knew we were in for a rough competition based on our pitting. Unfortunately, we were eliminated in the Semi-Final round. It was a tough blow, but we were still very happy to cheer on our Novice and Intermediate teams in the finals. The final round itself was filled with memorable moments. Yale was an amazing experience and so much fun—we were in a great mood for the whole day, laughing and going over the highlights of the day even as we were sitting in traffic at 11:30. I hope to see you and anyone else who's interested in Certamen there next year!



*Photo:  
BLS  
Advanced  
Certamen  
team,  
minus one.*



*Photo: An  
overview of  
Advanced  
Finals*



*Photo: BLS  
Intermediate  
and AMSA  
Intermediate  
teams at the  
Final round.*



*Photo: BLS Novice team minutes before their first place finish.*

## Ancient Olympics vs. Modern Olympics: What's Changed?

Veronica Beaupré  
Taconic High School

This year, the Summer Olympic Games were held in London, England. With millions attending the games from all over the world and millions more tuning in from the United States alone, it was the most watched television event in U.S. history. As most people know, the Summer Olympics stem from a much older idea- 2,788 years older, to be exact. The first ancient Olympic Games were held in Olympia, Greece in 776 BC. Although these early games were smaller, more limited, and held in the same place every year, they served much the same purpose as they do in modern times.

The ancient Olympics were in many ways different from the present Summer Olympics. At their largest, they consisted of only a fraction of the events held today. There was boxing, horse racing in the forms of riding and chariot-racing, the *pankraton* (a combination of wrestling and boxing), the pentathlon (which consisted

of the throwing of the discus and javelin), the long jump (where weights were used to help propel the body), running, and wrestling. Present-day events cover a wide array of sports including archery, basketball, track and field, gymnastics, fencing, and swimming. Although today male and female athletes



Photo: Ancient vase depicting the discus throwing competition in the Olympics.

from all over the world participate, the ancient games were open only to free men who spoke Greek. The ancient Olympics were held as a religious festival honoring Zeus. On the middle day of the games, a sacrifice of one hundred oxen was made. The modern version of the Olympics began as a tribute to the ancient games.

Most Americans will recognize the names Michael Phelps and Bruce Jenner, two highly regarded Olympians. People at the ancient Olympic Games would have recognized the name Milo of Kroton in the same way. Milo was a wrestler who won his first gold in the boys wrestling event at the sixtieth Olympiad in 540 BC. He came back as an adult to claim victory in five consecutive Olympiads from 532 to 516 BC. The games were also a place to announce or forge political treaties, such as a 100 year military treaty between the Mantineans, Athenians, Eleans, and Argives. In modern times, people travel thousands of miles to cheer in the stands for their countries.

The Olympics are a prime example of what mankind is capable of achieving when working peacefully together, both in ancient and modern times. A highlight of transaction, politics, and nationalism, the games have always embodied the competitive spirit of the people attending and participating in them.

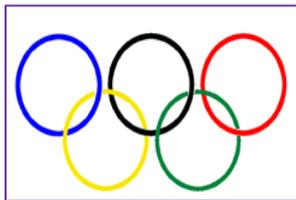


Photo: Modern day Olympics symbol.

## Did You Know That?

Elizabeth Burbage  
Winchester High School

Welcome to the first ever edition of this column! This issue, we will focus on three Roman Holidays: *Consualia*, *Ludi Romani*, and *Saturnalia*.

The Roman holiday of **Consualia**, was held in honor of Consus, on August 21<sup>st</sup>. On this holiday, chariot races were held throughout the day in the Circus Maximus and horses, mules, and donkeys, decorated lavishly with garlands and wreaths, were paraded through the streets of Rome. He was also in charge of protecting the population's grain. The temple of Consus was underground and covered by the earth all year except for on this holiday. Looking to increase the Roman population, Romulus used this holiday to invite all the Sabines to Rome and steal the Sabine women.

The **Ludi Romani**, or Roman Games, is one of the oldest gaming events in Rome. Lasting from September 5th to 19th the Roman Games honored Jupiter. These games were the only ones open to the public for over 100 years, until the Plebian Games began in 220 BC. The games, played in the Circus Maximus, followed a procession from the temple of Jupiter.

**Saturnalia** (December 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>) falls around the date of modern day Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza, or the Winter Solstice. The festival would begin in the temple of Saturn with sacrifices and rituals. The holiday was very similar to a modern day Christmas with greenery hung on doors and windows, excessive amounts of food, and gift giving. Saturnalia was supposed to reflect the Golden Age when crops were prosperous as Saturn, an agricultural god, reigned during that time.



Photo: Scene depicting a dice match during the Saturnalia Festival.



## Ask Pythia



### Pythia, how can I make new friends at Classics Day?

Making friends at Classics Day is simple! The easiest way is interacting with new people before or after one of your workshops. Want a conversation starter? Talk about your excitement for the workshop to begin, or what you found interesting about the workshop after it's over. *Bonam Fortunam!*

### Pythia, how can I pick up really nerdy Latin girls or guys?

The way to a Latin nerd's heart is through their love for grammar, myth, history, or literature. Try to relate with them on one of these topics or show them support if they are among the hardcore Certameners in Massachusetts. *Bonam Fortunam!*

### Pythia, how can I get a date to Snowball?

Getting a date to Snowball can start at Classics Day! If this delegate is from your school or from another school, make sure to spend some time with them during the day! Ask how their workshops went, or how their year is going. Showing some interest will get you far. *Bonam Fortunam!*

# Meet the 2012-2013 MassJCL Executive Board!

Learn all about the students running the 2013 State Convention at Barnstable High School this spring. We hope you enjoy our answers ☺



Photo: MassJCL Board '12-'13

## Questions:

1. What is one of your favorite JCL Memories?
2. In your opinion, what is the greatest Latin quote of all time?
3. What Roman holiday would you like to attend?
4. If you had to choose between being a Muse, a king/queen of Troy, or a successful Roman general who would you be?
5. Name your favorite sport team(s).

## President

Rahi Punjabi  
Grade 11  
AMSA



1. It's really hard to single one out. But if I had to, I'd choose the time I wore a Pikachu suit for Rent-A-Roman at States last year ☺
2. "*Non nobis solum nati sumus.*" - We are not born for ourselves alone. (Cicero)
3. Saturnalia! Dormice are so yummy... jk I eat the ones made of Oreos, Hershey's chocolate, and cherries.
4. Just as Marius enlisted many citizens in the Roman army during the Republic, this year, I hope to get more MassJCLers involved in our organization through new contests and opportunities.
5. My school teams: AMSA Eagles and Lady Eagles, MLB: Tigers ("Big Cat" Miguel Cabrera), NHL: Bruins (I don't follow them too closely, so I don't have a favorite), NBA: Celtics (Rajon Rondo), NFL: Patriots (Wes Welker—everyone deserves a second chance!), and Tennis: my all-time favorite Roger Federer.

## First Vice President

Maddie Kilgannon  
Grade 11  
BLS



1. States '09.
2. "*Aut viam inveniam aut faciam*" - I'll either find a way or make one.
3. Ludi Floriales – April 28 - May 3.
4. Helen of Troy, although I might feel pretty guilty for that whole Trojan War incident.
5. The Gryffindor Quidditch Team, I follow them quite closely.

## Second Vice President

Katelin Marchand  
Grade 11  
Mt. Greylock



1. My favorite JCL memory was my first National Convention. That was the week I realized my deep love of JCL and it was one of the best weeks ever.
2. "Patience is the greatest of all virtues." --Cato the Elder.
3. Kalends, March 1st which was the original New Year's Day.
4. The muse Clío.
5. Mount Greylock Certamen Team!

## Secretary

Jason Rowley  
Grade 10  
Lunenburg



1. My first Kickoff Day in the seventh grade!
2. "*De gustibus non est disputandum.*" - There must not be debate concerning tastes.
3. Saturnalia
4. A successful Roman General - If I had to choose to be a specific general I would choose Augustus, because he ushered in the Pax Romana.
5. The Lunenburg Blue Knights!

## Parliamentarian

Emma McMahon  
Grade 12  
Barnstable



1. Definitely has to be Nationals this past summer. That was really the first time I got the chance to immerse myself in JCL and meet loads upon loads of new people.
2. "*Tu ne cede malis sed contra audentior ito.*" - Do not give in to evil but proceed ever more boldly against it.
3. Saturnalia, it was the first Roman holiday I ever heard of, and I'm already a huge Christmas fan so it goes well with that.
4. Muse hands down. As someone going to art school I know how critical inspiration is, and how highly valued someone who ignites that creativity can be.
5. The USA Women's Olympic Eight (Olympic Rowing), because they were so nice when I met them, and I have a signed calendar from them hanging over my bed.

## Treasurer

Aaron Ziemer  
Grade 11  
Mt. Greylock



1. My favorite JCL memory has to be Donut Day at nationals. "We want donuts!"
2. "*Qui docet, discit*" - He who teaches learns
3. Saturnalia
4. I would be Scipio Africanus, hands down.
5. Clearly the green chariot team, I mean we wrecked white in the post-game brawl.

## Historian

Ava Violich  
Grade 11  
BLS



1. The tornado hitting our dorms at 4 AM during the Fargo, North Dakota NJCL convention! Only joking.

It's hard to pick just one favorite memory, but if I had to it would probably be meeting so many new friends and really cool people, especially at State and National conventions!

2. "Fortes fortuna iuvat" - Fortune favors the bold. Take chances in life!
3. Saturnalia!
4. I feel like all the queens of Troy had really tragic lives, and even if I were successful I would probably be a terrible general! So I would choose being a Muse. I love art and music, so if I were a Muse I could spend eternity hanging out with my fellow Muses singing songs and inspiring people.
5. The cross country, track, and Certamen teams at my school and the Spanish soccer team!

## Publications

Joana Jankulla  
Grade 11  
BLA



1. Winning the 2012 Advanced State Certamen Championship.

2. "Forsan et haec olim meminisse iuvabit" – Perhaps someday it will help to have remembered these things.
3. Saturnalia, hands down.
4. As amazing as it would have been to be a Muse, I would have to say a queen of Troy. Back in its golden days, before the Trojan War completely ruined it, it seems like it would have been a great city to rule.
5. The Boston Celtics. If you come up to me and mention Rajon Rondo, I will have a long conversation with you about how much I admire his leadership skills and confident mentality.

## Technical Coordinator

Jeffrey Dubuisson  
Grade 11  
BLA



1. My first Nationals because I was fully immersed in a world that loves the classics, and I made some amazing friends.

2. "Tu ne cede malis sed contra audentior ito" – Yield not to misfortunes but advance all the more boldly against them,
3. Vinalia Rustica.
4. I would love to be a successful Roman general; I'm a people person, and being a successful leader means having the trust and love of my troops. (Also celebrating a triumph wouldn't be too bad.)
5. I am a huge Boston fan, which might have to do with the fact that in the past decade we have won a championship in football, baseball, basketball and hockey. But I have to admit, I'm a lover of the New England Patriots.

## Kicking off the Year, JCL Style!



Photo: true JCL style.



Photo: Dr. Nelson and Ma Keeley!



Photo: Kickoff style.



Photo: Fun times!



Photo: "We love MassJCL!"



Photo: 'Hard in Da Paint' showing their soft side.



Photo: Rahi Punjabi welcomes everyone.



Photo: Hula-hoop time!



Photo: Meanwhile at the Bazaar..



Photo: Officers during the Berkshire Bowl!



Photo: JCLers smiling for the camera!



Photo: JCL happiness.



Photo: Marshmallow Catapult team!



Photo: MassJCL Officer jars for Coin Wars!

## Upcoming Events

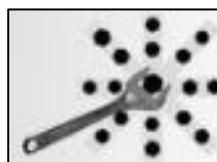
- January 12<sup>th</sup> – Boston Latin Academy Certamen Forum
- February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Boston Latin School Certamen Tournament
- February 9<sup>th</sup> – MassJCL Snowball

## Gratias Vobis Ago!

On behalf of the MassJCL, thank you for providing your services and resources to this organization. We greatly appreciate it!



Schell Printing in Jamaica Plain for their generous work with JCL and this issue!



Mr. Hannigan at Merrimax Web Mechanics for the donation of the state and many local websites.



Fenton, Pinsonnault & Quinn, PC for their work with us in filing taxes. Ms. Keeley especially thanks you!